

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 are pending in the present application. Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled herein.

L. FORMAL MATTERS

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1 and 3 are allowed. As presented below, Applicant has cancelled herein the other remaining claims (claims 2 and 4). Therefore, Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully solicited.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Office Action again acknowledges the claim to priority and indicates that the priority documents have been received.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Office Action again a copy of the PTO Form 1449 that was submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 10, 2004. Each reference is initialed by the Examiner, thereby indicating that these references were considered and will be listed on the face of any patent that issues from the present invention.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Office Action again indicates that the drawings filed on July 2, 2004 are acceptable.

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are objected to for minor informalities. Except as presented below, Applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner. Regarding line 13 of claim 3, Applicant respectfully submits that a semicolon should be placed after “each shift gate,” as presented above. Also, claim 4 has been cancelled herein. Therefore, the objection to claim 4 is now moot.

III. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,526,048 (Yamamoto).

Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled herein. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the present application is condition for allowance, and allowance is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any outstanding issue could be resolved through a telephone interview, Applicant kindly requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Applicant believes that no additional fees are due for the subject application. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

/John J. Penny, Jr./

Date: December 28, 2007

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